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STATINTL

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(AMERICAN)

WASHINGTON--THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY DISCOUNTED HINTS IN THE EUROPEAN PRESS THAT WASHINGTON DOCTOR RICHARD H. FOLLIS JR., WHO DISAPPEARED LAST WEEK IN AMSTERDAM, WAS INVOLVED WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

"I WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO SUSPECT THAT HE WAS," DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER FOLLIS WAS IN SOME WAY CONNECTED WITH CIA.

THE DOCTOR'S WIFE ALSO REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY CONNECTION WITH CIA. SHE WAS QUOTED IN THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY AS SAYING "THERE IS NOTHING TO THAT, I AM POSITIVE. I CAN NOT IMAGINE MY HUSBAND BEING INTERESTED I ESPIONAGE OR ANYTHING OF THAT SORT. HE IS COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO MEDICINE."

MCCLOSKEY SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY DUTCH AUTHORITIES INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FOLLIS, A PROMINENT AUTHORITY ON NUTRITIONAL PATHOLOGY.

MCCLOSKEY SUGGESTED THAT AMSTERDAM OFFICIALS WERE THE "APPROPRIATE" SOURCES FOR COMMENT.

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